THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 28-29-30 | Oncilla

phoenixdragon1690

We're in the home stretch now, fellow FanWings. After this one, we've only got three rereads to go to reach the end of *The Dragonet Prophecy*--and only four days after that, *The Lost Continent* comes out. In order to make that deadline, we're doing three chapters this week, bringing us to the end of part 2, so everybody hold on to your hats.

Sorry this is kinda late, by the way. And if y'all didn't go see the pretty ~~SpiderManWing~~ SilkWing yet, you should do that (over at /328228).

This reread may contain SPOILERS for any and all Wings of Fire books. If you have not finished the series, read ahead at your own peril.

SUMMARY
Chapter 28: Clay and Peril step into the arena and face off. They fight and have a conversation at the same time; Clay states that maybe the dragonets are supposed to show the world how to get along without fighting. Scarlet asks for Clay to use "his" venom; Glory, in response, sprays her venom towards Burn, who uses Scarlet as a shield. As the SkyWing queen screams, all the dragons in the crowd flee; Peril breaks Clay's wing bindings, then helps him free Tsunami and Sunny. They debate about whether to save Kestrel; Clay, Tsunami, and Peril go to get her, but Glory refuses. Clay rescues a scavenger, and they go back into the SkyWing palace….

Chapter 29: It doesn't take them long to find Kestrel and melt through her cage; she and Peril have a brief, cold reunion, and a pair of guards show up. Kestrel doesn't hesitate to order Peril to kill them, but Clay helps one escape because she's just a palace guard (gruesome death count: 18). Kestrel berates him; Tsunami berates her right back; they flee the palace. The dragonets reunite and banter a bit, and Tsunami tells Kestrel that they're going to find their homes. Kestrel and Clay both ask Peril to come with them, and Glory suggests that maybe Peril is the "wings of sky," a theory Kestrel is quick to put down. Peril decides not to go with Kestrel; the guardian tells the dragonets where their eggs came from and leaves.

Chapter 30: Clay tells Peril that she can still come with them, but she disagrees, saying that they're all heroes and she's not. Finally, she decides that she'll go back to the Sky Kingdom and find out what happened to Scarlet. As hundreds of dragons take to the sky in search of them, the dragonets devise a plan to escape without being seen. Clay and Peril say goodbye, and then the dragonets set off to the Mud Kingdom.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
There are three of them this week, one from each chapter, because I can't pick.

From chapter 28:
"That's not how I am. No matter what happened when I hatched. I can't feel this killer inside me that's supposed to be there. Maybe that's what the prophecy is about. Maybe the dragonets are supposed to show everyone how to get along without a lot of killing." ~Clay

That's both the resolution to Clay's emotional arc throughout this book, and a part of one of the biggest thematic arcs of the first five books: we don't have to be what people think we are, and we don't have to be

what we're made to be. We can choose to be better. We're dragons, not caterpillars--we can do things differently if we want.

From chapter 29:
"We're going to find our homes. And our parents. We're going to see this war firsthand, instead of reading about it in scrolls. And then we'll figure out for ourselves if we're going to do anything about it." ~Tsunami

This, too, is a resolution to one of the book's emotional arcs. Scarlet's been mocking the dragonets nearly since the beginning for not knowing anything about the war, and Tsunami's determined to change that. It also brings up perhaps the only theme bigger than the above "choosing our destinies" theme: families. (Yeah, expect to be talking about that one a *lot*, especially in the next few chapters as we get to the Mud Kingdom and Clay's family.)

From chapter 30:
"Privately, he agreed with Sunny. They couldn't just ignore the prophecy. Something had to be done about the war, and everyone was waiting for the dragonets to do it, He kept thinking of the prisoners, singing the song of the dragonets as if it would save them.
"But he also agreed with Tsunami--they couldn't do anything until they were out in the real world, figuring out what could be done. On their own, without the Talons of Peace keeping them away from their families and everything that made stopping the war important."

THE DRAGONETS
I very nearly put this bit in the Quote of the Week too, but we already have three of those. It works here, though, because it's really the core of Peril's character development:

"You're the kinds of dragonets they write prophecies about. You're heroes and saviors and I'm--well, I'm the opposite of that. I'm the bad guy. … I thought I was born a killer, but it turns out I wasn't. Queen Scarlet made me that way...or I let myself become that way. It's like I chose it without knowing I chose it. But you were born that way. You knew what you were like, and you chose to be something else. I guess I feel like I can't be one of you unless I can do that, too."

Also, Sunny's here and she gets to talk for the first time since chapter 13.

Glory: "Do what you like, but I'm not a big mushy ball of forgiveness like you are, Clay."

"[Clay] turned and saw Peril's face. She knew he'd been protecting the guard--a total stranger--from her. She knew now for certain how he felt about what she did."

THE QUEENS
"Hurry up and do it, then. You have her at your mercy. Use your venom! That was thrilling, and I didn't even get to see it the first time!"
Famous last words, Scarlet.

"Burn had only to collect her soldiers--a shield between her and Glory's venom--and then she'd come searching for the dragonets."

"Poison in your food. One of Scarlet's favorite tricks."

OTHER DRAGONS
The dragonets about Kestrel:
Tsunami: "What do we care? Kestrel was awful to us."
Sunny: "We care anyway. We can't help it. Even you."
Glory: "I don't. She was going to kill me. Remember?"

"'Come with me,' Kestrel said roughly. 'I'm not much, but I'm better than Scarlet.' She reached toward Peril and then saw the scorch marks on her own palms and pulled back."

WORLDBUILDING
Oh look a scavenger.

It's the Diamond Spray River! That's not mentioned a lot after this book.

The first mention of the dragon of Jade Mountain.

BIOLOGY AND CULTURE
Venom!

“Dragons kill each other all the time. In war, in here, anywhere, for no reason at all. That’s how we are.”

“Most of the SkyWings were outside, hiding in the sky around the mountain peaks.”
This makes sense. If you can outfly anything, the most logical reaction to danger is to get in the air, where you can get away from anything dangerous.

Those black rocks that Scarlet’s been making Peril eat? LIES.

Clay rolls in some mud.

“Her wing scales shimmered as if they were drawing in the sunlight, and then the purple color started to break up like water being poured into paint. Soon she was the color of the muddy ground below her.”
(does...does this mean Clay knows what water being poured into paint looks like)

“[Sunny’s] weight was barely more than a cow’s as she climbed onto Clay’s back and clutched the spiny ridges.”

BODY LANGUAGE + NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION:
“Clawing the sand in frustration.”

“[Kestrel] watched Peril with an uneasy expression, flicking her forked tongue in and out.”

“...Kestrel and Tsunami glared at each other. Smoke puffed from Kestrel’s nose, drifting away on the air.”

“Tiny scarlet flame shapes flickered around Glory’s ears, and she shrugged.”

“Her copper wings slumped.”

“Kestrel lashed her tail, uprooting one of the bushes without noticing.”

“Peril ducked her head, huddling into her wings.”

CULTURAL BIASES
“Well, that’s great. For the first time in my life, I pretend to be as lazy as everyone thinks RainWings are, and you actually believe it.”

DRAGONSPEAK
“Stupid worm.”

DIFFERENCES WITH LATER BOOKS
Okay, this is not “with later books,” but this section is really just for catching inconsistencies so:

“...jumped back as Kestrel’s yellow eyes glared through the bars at him.”
(five pages later)
“[Kestrel]...gave Tsunami a sharp orange glare.”
(another five pages)
“[Kestrel’s] orange eyes shifted balefully….”

That’s all in one chapter, folks.

COMMENTARY
Clay and Peril’s arena fight in chapter 28 is good. You should go read it.

“One of [Kestrel’s] wings snagged on a tree branch and she wrestled it loose, growling.”

“Oh, well, there’s a logical scientific explanation and *seriously, right now you want to have this conversation?”*

I’m still kind of ticked that everyone draws Peril orange when she’s clearly and repeatedly described as copper.

As always, annotations help will be appreciated! See you next week as we begin the final part of the book.

Previous reread: /327314 Index: /317770

13

Such is the path of a dreamer: I find my way by moonlight.

~Oncilla~

Queen of Non Sequitur, Bookwyrms, Pangolins, and Bones

Trash Squad, Werewolf, GASTER FOLLOWER

Writer, roleplayer, nerd

WoFMBer Dec. 2014-Mar. 2019

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maroondragon561

nice one!

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TIGER

triplet with Rune and Time.

est.[June21st][2017] ☆2,820☆
Never be afraid to be yourself,
For we're all wonderfully unique,
In our own way.

Rip.

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 28-29-30 | Oncilla

cleverdragon364

Oh, I love this analysis! I'm really excited to see what you do with the rest of the books (if you decide to do them).

Chapter 28

"I had a whole plan," [Peril] said. "A plan where I saved you after Kestrel, and you liked me best of all."
Tui: Believe it or not, I didn't originally think of Peril as a realistic possible love interest for Clay. I mean, she is SUPER messed up! It's one of those situations where he would clearly be good for her, but would she be good for him? But then, the more I wrote about her, the more I cared about her...and the more Clay did, too...so, we'll see what happens!

Clay whipped around to face the balcony as Glory suddenly reared up in a blaze of sunflower gold and cobalt blue. She snapped her thin chain like a reed and launched herself off the marble tree. Her mouth was wide open, hinged like a snake's. She hissed, and a jet of black liquid shot out of her two longest fangs.
Tui: YAAAYYYY! I was so excited to write this scene. Rise of the RainWing! Watch out, everyone!

"Did you seriously think I was asleep this whole time?"
Tui: To be completely honest, Glory was kind of bedazzled for a while by all the sunlight and admiration and lack of dragons yelling at her...but even so, none of that could stop her from saving her friends.

Wind billowed under his wings, and despite his fear of Burn, he felt that same fierce joy grip him at the freedom of flying.
Tui: I briefly debated including a tribe who couldn't fly -- after all, there are mythological dragons with no wings in some cultures here. But in the end I decided (1) flying is kind of the one unifying love all these dragons have, and (2) it would be mighty difficult for that one wingless dragon to keep up with all the others as they fly to every

corner of Pyrrhia. So, for character purposes and plot-streamlining purposes, all the Pyrrhia dragons can fly. (Plus, what would you call them? WinglessWings? NoWings? Oooo...NoWings is kind of cool...)

"I knew you'd be all right!" [Sunny] cried as the three dragonets each nosed her through the bars. "I knew I shouldn't have worried. I just kept thinking about the prophecy and how we can't die because we have to stop the war."
Tui: This is Sunny's faith right here. (And I think it's sweet of her friends not to point out the smashed SkyWing egg from the prologue.)

"Not me," Glory said. "Do what you like, but I'm not a big mushy ball of forgiveness like you are, Clay."
Tui: By having five heroes, I can have five different kinds of heroes...including both the noble, self-sacrificing kind and the sensible, fiercely independent, big-picture kind. I didn't think it would be realistic for Glory to turn around and save Kestrel, after everything Kestrel did (and was planning to do) to her.

It was one of the prey scavengers from the party; it had somehow managed to climb up this high without being spotted.
Tui: I kind of really want to tell this guy's story...maybe one day!

"And stay away from dragons from now on," [Clay] said sternly, although he knew the scavenger couldn't understand him.
Tui: Anyone who's read all the books so far has probably noticed that there's a small scavenger scene like this in each of them. That's because I'm really interested in the dragon-human interaction and how they each completely don't understand the other. Also, I wanted to give our heroes one more thing that separates them from most dragons: their ability to feel pity, curiosity, or empathy for the scavengers make them unusual in this world. (Question from Clever: Hey...poor Starflight doesn't have a scavenger-rescuing scene, does he...?)

Chapter 29

"I thought you *were dead," Peril answered without any warmth in her voice.*
Tui: A touching mother-daughter reunion scene coming right up here...I mean, would you want to find out that Peril was your daughter, or that Kestrel was your mother? (On the other hand, compare this to the reunion in Chapter 33, and I wonder which is worse or more uncomfortable...)

Glory flared her ruff at Tsunami. "I am not bright purple. *Queen Scarlet called this my violet modd, thank you very much."*
Tui: Hee, I love it when these two fight.

"Oh, we did everything wrong," Kestrel said scathingly. "Go ahead and blame us, but we did as the Talons of Peace asked. You would probably all be dead if we hadn't."
Tui: I'm kind of imagining Kestrel as an angry parent here, defending her parenting choices...which is such a weird feeling, because on the one hand, I wrote her as a pretty cold, authoritarian, unloving parent, but on the other hand, I am all for defending most people's parenting choices...and she was doing the best she could, especially considering she was secretly grieving her own dragonets at the same time. (But man, she was pretty terrible!)

"We're going to find our homes," Tsunami said. "And our parents. We're going to see this war firsthand, instead of reading about it in scrolls."
Tui: She's remembering the conversation with Scarlet, and how the queen threw back in her face how little the dragonets know about real life and real war.

On their own, without the Talons of Peace keeping them away from their families and everything that made stopping the war important.
Tui: Yes -- it can't just be words ("stop the war")...there has to be a reason for them (and us) to care about it. Hopefully I included enough affected characters and war-torn scenes to accomplish that!

Tiny scarlet flame shapes flickered around Glory's ears, and she shrugged.
Tui: Remember these from the scene where Morrowseer first showed up? Remember what they mean? Clay is too enthusiastic about Peril to notice them this time, but hopefully some readers do!

[Glory's] eyes stayed on the butterfly instead of looking at the other dragonets.
Tui: Because she's testing them...will anyone say the right thing? ("No no, we have Glory!") What do you think?

Sunny sat back, looking hurt.
Tui: Here we have Sunny, who is willing to treat Kestrel as a real parent but is soundly rejected, in contrast to Peril, who doesn't particularly want her mother reaching out to her this way.

"But I suppose," [Kestrel] said, "when you realize you need me, you can send me a message through the dragon of Jade Mountain. Not that I'll come running, mind you."
Tui: She totally will.

"I am the way life has made me."
Tui: Compare this to Clay's: "I want to be the kind of dragon I want to be..." philosophy of life.

Chapter 30
[No annotations for this chapter!]

☆ 5

***Clever,** A Very Clevery Guy* ❤❤❤
[exits, pursued by a bear]
bringing you cool good posts: Dec. 2014 - March 2019
appreciating and supporting you: today - forever!!!!

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poke

☆ 0

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fairydragon1798

Yeee, three chapters!

This is great, Oncilla!

~~How do you keep pointing out the same things as Tui?~~

0

~Fairydragon~
She/Her

We *will* never *be forgotten*
for we've all played our parts
and if the memories are erased
they'll still be in our hearts

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moonsteel33

Awesome! Oh man it drives me insane when people can't decide on an eye color for a character...
Be proud of me, Oncilla, I haven't drawn Peril as orange! Then again, I haven't drawn Peril XD

1

Sanetra

11562+ stars - Apr 2017 - Mar 2019

Life is the greatest gift. You've all helped shape mine. I can never thank you all enough. It's been so good.

Amigos
*eureka*DarkseaBearBlackberryVertigoLector*Gulfy*Caleo*Zodiak*TS
...I'm with you to the end

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